

ER 61-5040/a

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Mr. Arthur Springer

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Dear Mr. Springer:

On behalf of Mr. Dulles, I would like to acknowledge and thank you very much for your letter of 18 June.

Since the Central Intelligence Agency does not make foreign policy, I might suggest that you send your comments to the State Department, Washington 25, D. C.

Your courtesy in writing to us about this is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Signed

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Assistant to the Director

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O/DCI/ [redacted] bak(21 June 61)

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee
1 - Col. Grogan (This has Col. Grogan's approval)
1 - AAB
✓ - ER w/basic via reading

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FILE) S

61-5040

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18 June 1961

Allen Dulles
 Central Intelligence Agency
 2430 E Street NW
 Washington, D.C.

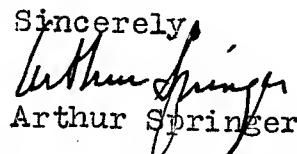
Dear Mr. Dulles:

I've just had the chance to read a brief news report on your conversation with one of the men who picketed your agency early in May. I suspect that you did both yourself and the young man involved a real service. Unlike that individual, I did read the May 1 news reports from Cuba, and was quite disturbed at the tone and content of the demonstrations.

It seems useful to let you know that there are fairly well informed people who have considerable doubt about the effectiveness of a dominantly military approach to totalitarian governments.

The story quotes you as saying, "We are for peace, too. I don't want any more wars." I share that viewpoint completely, and I hope sincerely that you, and other responsible government officials, will make every effort to communicate with groups and individuals who share your goals. Our fundamental disagreement rests on the means being used to achieve those goals, the extent to which these means contribute to democratic change or international security, and a willingness to pursue non-violent alternatives.

Having worked for the American Friends Service Committee, I think I am aware of the need for more direct, informal communication between individuals who are critical of government policies, and men responsible for execution of policy. If you feel this would be useful, I would be glad to help arrange a private meeting where your views could be made known clearly to those who questioned the government's Cuban policies, and their thoughts presented to you.

Sincerely,

 Arthur Springer